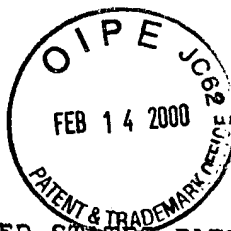


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CHRISTOPHER J. RUDY

PAGE 01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: R.H. Hall & T.W. Selby
Serial No. 09/172,577
Filing Date 10/13/98

Attn: Group Art Unit 3682
Examiner Chong H. Kim

For INERT GAS BLANKET FOR PROTECTION FROM OXIDATION

Record of Interview

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Thank you for the courtesies extended by both Examiners Chong Kim and David Fenstermacher during the personal interview conducted with the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant on February 9, 2000, which interview has been summarized by Examiner Kim on the Interview Summary (PTO-413) of record in connection with the present application. The PTO-413 correctly summarizes the interview, with the following briefly added:

Examiner Kim stated that the "vented" limitation was "a good direction to go" concerning overcoming the Sec. 102 rejection.


The possibility of submission of additional claims such as oxygen diversion to a combustion process and/or cabin, continuous replenishment during operation, and so forth, was discussed, with Examiner Fenstermacher bringing attention to Oiestad, U.S. Patent No. 3,899,099, and MPEP 819, for consideration in any submission. He also advised sensitivity to single step method claim issues.

The undersigned Christopher Rudy submitted that with respect to the nonanalogous status of Gast, Jr., it is the invention as claimed, not as disclosed, which is to be of concern with respect to the art proposed for application under Sec. 103. He said that he would cite case law to help in this issue. He also submitted that protection of crankcase lubrication oil and so forth was not contemplated by Kopel, and that claim 20, for example, also has a long mileage requirement which may be termed, "surprising."

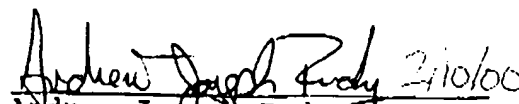
The comment of the Examiners is invited.

Respectfully,

Dated: February 10, 2000 A.D.


Christopher John Rudy
PTO Registration No. 31/873

Dated: February 10, 2000 A.D.


Andrew Joseph Rudy
PTO Registration No. 45,360